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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 002118

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION SPECIAL, MAY 19: TERRORIST  
ATTACKS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND MOROCCO

[1](#)1. SUMMARY: Leading Kuwaiti liberals take to the op/ed pages to condemn recent terror attacks in the region and link them to Arab world failure to address the political, social and economic conditions that "breed" Islamic terror. Noticeably absent is any tendency to blame the US/Israel/the West for this phenomenon. According to writers, steps Arab governments must take include eliminating sources of finance for terrorists and revising educational curricula that incite sectarian hatred and violence. END SUMMARY.

Editorials:

[1](#)2. "When Terrorism Knocks the Doors"  
Liberal Editor-in-Chief Waleed Al-Nesf wrote in independent Al-Qabas (5/18): "The recent terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia and Morocco stressed to us that danger can reach all of us. We in Kuwait must be more determined to end terrorism within the framework of the law. Our strategy to combat terrorism must be to save young men from believing in extremism, to learn to be tolerant with others and to eliminate the sources of finance for terrorists. We must unite with other nations, adopt new means to eliminate terrorism and to contribute to implementing new policies to combat terrorism."

[1](#)3. "It Is In Our Hands, Not In Bush's Hands"  
Editor-in-Chief Jassim Boodai wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (5/18): "Unfortunately, some of us have helped in the development of [terrorism] but then handed over the problem of combating terrorism to the Americans instead of taking care of it themselves. Therefore, combating terrorism should be in our hands, not in Bush's hands. [I]f we fail as nations and a society to take the matter into our own hands, then we deserve to live in fear."

[1](#)4. "The New Terrorism"  
Liberal Kuwait University Political Science Professor, Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (5/18): "Are Arab countries, and the GCC in particular, ready to combat terrorism? Until now, most Arab nations have focused on the security aspect in confronting terrorism but have ignored the economic, social and the political facets. We are certain that none of these countries are unilaterally capable of confronting terrorism without the assistance of other Western nations."

[1](#)5. "Those Who Brainwash Minds"  
Liberal Media Advisor to the Acting Prime Minister, Sami Al-Nesf wrote in independent Al-Anba (5/18): "Terrorism and suicide attacks are the result of a long accumulation of instigations. There are only three solutions to ending terrorism and violence: 1) Becoming tougher with the people who instigate such actions; 2) Revising the educational curricula that call for hatred; and 3) Holding awareness and enlightenment programs for the Arab societies."

[1](#)6. "America Is Our Friend and Ally"  
Pan-Arabist Editor-in-Chief Ahmad Al-Jarallah wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (5/18): "Currently, we have a golden opportunity to fight terror by openly declaring our alliance with the world's superpower, which was also severely hit by terror. We have this opportunity, but we hesitate to seize it just because we want to sympathize with local and Arab opinions, which are anti-American. Kuwait might have considered the presence of American forces on our territory as an occupation, before the occupation by Iraq. However, after Saddam's army invaded Kuwait in 1990. all Kuwaitis, including the political leadership, were then ready to cooperate with Washington for the liberation of Kuwait. [W]e should openly declare Americans to be our friends and allies."

[1](#)7. "Our Hearts Are With The Saudi Kingdom"  
Liberal Secretary General of the Kuwait Journalists' Association, Faisal Al-Qannai wrote in independent Al-

Seyassah (5/17): "The terrorist attack in the city of Riyadh bears resemblance to the bombings in the US on September 11 [2001] and undoubtedly proves that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also a target of terrorist acts carried out by Al-Qaeda. Gulf countries must do their utmost to take the preventive measures needed to provide protection and security not only for foreigners residing in the GCC countries, but also for all public places. Terrorism does not differentiate between religions and nationalities, given that many Muslims and Arabs fell victim in the Riyadh bombing."

JONES